

St Mary's School, Mosgiel Newsletter



Mission Statement—St Mary's is a Catholic School dedicated to the provision of the highest quality primary education with a special emphasis of Catholic values and attitudes.

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Term 2 Week 7

5th June 2012

62 Church Street, Mosgiel, Dunedin 9024

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of St Mary's School,

Over the last week the top news story has been the National Government's attempt to increase the number of pupils in school classrooms and to stop Year Seven and Eight pupils having access to specialist technology teachers.

Any logical person can see that increasing the size of a Year Two or Three class room from 18 to 28 will have a huge negative effect on the learning environment and the very important pupil teacher relationship—simply put there are ten more voices to be heard.

While I am sure that this makes great economic sense sometimes leadership is not about being reactionary but rather about thinking strategically. Yes New Zealand schools have a tail of under-achievers. Yes it is too large (any tail is too large) but most studies highlight the fact that New Zealand schools are ranked in the top echelon of countries in the OECD and that our tail is mostly caused by social effects well outside the control of any school (mainly poverty).

At St Mary's we have a commitment to keep our class sizes as small as possible, I have yet to hear of a similar school that has smaller sized classes. Often the teacher due to their professionalism and burning desire to do the best for their class press me for more resources, but alas even we must adhere to budgets and allocations of funding and teacher staffing.

No class at St Mary's has more pupils than the prescribed ministry guidelines, few schools can claim this. We will battle to continue this trend, but your support makes this challenge far easier. The Government will not be influenced by teachers or unions rather it is you, as parents, who will influence the outcomes of this debate.

Contact your local National MP Michael Woodhouse and voice your concerns to him.

At St Mary's we battle very hard to make our resources go as far as we can: few schools have better resources, greater teacher aid time and smaller classes but all of this is under threat. The challenges in education are always great because the stakes are so high (the future of our country) and we will continue to do our very best for your children but take it from someone who knows class size does matter.

I will be away the first two days of this week as part of the Catholic Education Offices Review Team reviewing St Theresa's in Invercargill.

Mrs Kenneally will be Acting Principal in my absence, I will be back on Thursday.

Have a great week.

Mike Brosnahan
Principal

Police Visit Last Week



Our Vision : Confident, reflective, risk-taking, lifelong learners in a Catholic School.

Dates for June

5th –8th	Scholastic Book Fair in the Library
6th	Mufti Day
6th	Transit of Venus viewing
7th	Assembly R3/5 -Thurs
11th	PTA Meeting 7.30pm
13th	BOT Meeting 7.30pm
11th	Extra Spelling Quiz
14th	Rm 7 Camp Meeting 7pm
15th	Assembly Rms 1 & 2
18th	St Johns Visit
20th&21st	Taieri Schools Music Festival 7pm
22nd	School Cross Country
27th	Prepared Speeches Yrs 6-8

Mufti Day Tomorrow Wednesday 6th June

As our service project for Term Two we will be holding a Mufti Day tomorrow Wednesday 6th June. All money raised will go to support the Chair of Neurosurgery at Otago University Dunedin Hospital.

All of us know someone who having this service in our city has been effected for the better, and to support this concept our mufti day will have the theme of a **Hat Day**—to highlight the importance of our head and brain. Gold coin donation please.

A thought for the week...

"There are two educations. One should teach us how to make a living and the other how to live".

-James Trustlow Adams

Note Change of Assembly

Room 3/5 Assembly has changed to this Thursday 7th June, 2.20pm in the hall.

Transit of Venus

Tomorrow Wednesday 6th June the children will be viewing the Transit of Venus.

No one alive today has seen a transit of Venus from NZ. The last transit, in June 2004 was visible from the other side of the Earth. Before that the previous transit was 1882!

The children will all be given Safe Solar Viewers to see this through.

Times for Dunedin:

Start 10.15am, Mid point 1.30, End 4.43pm

**St Mary's School
Quiz Night
Tuesday 19th June
7.30pm
Mosgiel RSA Community
Club**

**\$25 per team
(max of 5 people per team)
Register at our school office
489 7716**

**Come early & have a drink with
friends beforehand.**

**Remember to bring some coins for
our \$1 and \$2 raffles!**

Awesome prizes to be won!!!

Lounge tickets to a Highlanders Game
Bungy Jump

Gondola & Luge Ride and many more!

**St Mary's is on Duty at Netball this
Weekend!**

This requires setting up (table, cones, etc) at 8.30am.

Before the 12.30 games start the tall goals need to be replaced by the shorter Future Ferns goals and the balls replaced to size 4.

At the end of the day the goals are changed back and table/balls etc all put away.

Also two people are to be at the duty desk throughout the day to ring the bell and give out things.

**We will need all parents to help either
before, during or after your child's
games, to cover the whole day.**

St Mary's teams will play beside the duty table so you can still watch your child play!

If the coaches of the teams let Lisa Matheson know what times your team can cover, this will help the day run smoothly. Thank you.

Altar Servers Sunday 10th June

Shannon Crooks, Caitlin Anderton, & Sam O'Neill

New Sports Uniform

Thank you for your positive feedback for our new sports uniform. We have reviewed and collated the ideas and sent them through to the art room of ISC.

ISC Lenco has been regarded as one of New Zealand's leading suppliers/manufacturers for sportswear for over 25 years and supplies many Dunedin schools. The uniform will be sublimated so this enables us to have as much colour and details as we want on the uniforms at no extra cost.

To clarify a few other details the design is based on the Year 7&8 rugby jersey, the fabric used for these jerseys is a durable sports fabric designed specifically for rugby.

A sports mesh fabric will be used for our new sports uniform. (Easy wash, dry and wear).

The idea of the Saddle Hill image on the back was to:

1. Show we are from the Taieri area
2. Carry on a little piece of history from our old sports tops
3. To make our tops unique

We have asked to have this as a watermark under the St Mary's Mosgiel on the back.

A final decision on all artwork will be made when proofs arrive from the art room.

The school is very fortunate to have received a grant from Bendigo Valley Sports & Charity Foundation towards the new uniforms. This means each uniform (top and shorts) will receive a **\$25 subsidy**.

To receive this subsidy your order will need to be placed before the 15th June and the total will be \$50.

After this the uniforms will be \$75 for the set. (Top \$40 and Shorts \$35).

While the orders need to be placed by the 15th June, payment is not required until the uniforms arrive next term.

A period of gradually phasing in the use of the new uniform is expected by the BOT. Pupils are expected to wear the new uniform once they have arrived this year and the uniform will be a compulsory component of our school uniform from the beginning of 2013. The only exception will be this year's Year Seven and Eight group who because of the small amount of use of the uniform they will get, may choose to wear either the new uniform or the existing Year 7 & 8 rugby style top.

We have been asked if they come in adults sizes. They will cost a little more but if you would like one please add this to your families order form and I will let you know the price.

If you would like any further information please contact me on 489-2342, Donna Burns.

Cut here and return to office by 15th June please



ST MARY'S SPORT UNIFORM ORDER FORM

Family Name: _____

Phone

Order

Uniform 1	Name	Size	Price \$50
Uniform 2	Name	Size	Price \$50
Uniform 3	Name	Size	Price \$50
Adult Top		Size	

Total \$ _____

Sizes available 4 to 14

To help with sizing a size 10 top is available for viewing at the school office.

The sizes are the same as our old sports tops from Postie Plus.

e-learning snapshot 7 – Learning from viewing

The web is full of video footage and much of it is fantastic educational material. Sometimes the challenge is finding the 'good stuff' while avoiding the other. Today I would like to share a couple of AMAZING sites with you!

The first and best is definitely <http://thekidshouldseethis.com/>

This site is a blog of Kid-friendly but not necessarily made-for-kids videos for all, collected by Rion Nakava and her four year old co-collector. It is an amazing site. We are using it in class looking at the messages in nature. It is so incredible to see nature up close and especially relevant for us right now learning about animal communities.

The following are also wonderful sites, well worth a look, possibly aimed more at mid to senior school students.

Brain Pickings <http://www.brainpickings.org/>



Sci Show <http://www.youtube.com/user/scishow?feature=g-user-u>



Crash Course <http://www.youtube.com/user/crashcourse?feature=watch>



The list is probably endless but this is a good start. I think the real value in watching is in discussing and sharing your thoughts about what you have watched. Making connections with what you know and challenging your thinking adds to the experience of learning.

Happy viewing.

Anne Kenneally

Scholastic Book Fair in the Library this Week!

Come and visit between 2.45–3.15pm Tuesday–Thursday

For purchases please bring Cash or Cheque



SLINGSHOT 'BETTER SCHOOLS' PROGRAMME

We are now part of this wonderful programme whereby Slingshot customers can choose to have a percentage of their monthly bill donated to the school. Each month, Slingshot will send us a cheque to use as we see fit. How big that cheque is depends on you! If you'd like this easy and pain free way to contribute please go to

www.slingshot.co.nz/schools or call 0800 89 2000 and speak to one of their friendly customer helpers.

Who is Slingshot?

Slingshot is New Zealand's largest 100% kiwi owned phone and internet company. They focus on keeping things simple, and providing better service and better value than the big guys.



Kapahaka

Tonight in the foyer at 5pm. Please remember pick-up is at 5.45pm. This Friday we are travelling by bus to Strath Taieri School in Middlemarch to spend the day with their Kapahaka group. We will leave school at 9.15 and return by 2.45ish. Lunch is very kindly provided for children and adults. We all need to bring morning tea, a water bottle and a gold coin donation as a koha.

Children are to come in full school uniform. As well as a Powhiri, we will sing and perform and participate in games, rakau, hand games and poi.

The cost of the bus is \$10.00 per child which will be added to your account.